



Committee on Homeland Security **Democrats**

Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

www.house.gov/hsc/democrats/

March 17, 2005

Contact: Nadra Harrison
202.226.2616

CONGRESSMAN THOMPSON QUESTIONS ADEQUACY OF REPROGRAMMING REQUEST

Washington, DC — Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member of the House Homeland Security Committee, issued the following statement about the Department of Homeland Security's reprogramming request submitted to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees:

"I am deeply concerned that the Department's reprogramming request will not allow the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to carry out its anti-terrorism and homeland security missions. Even with this request, the Department is failing to provide ICE with the resources it needs to fight terrorists, drug smugglers, alien smugglers, and money launderers," said Congressman Thompson.

Democratic Committee staff has determined that only \$180 million of the \$500 million request is funding from outside of ICE. The remaining \$320 million is internally reshuffled monies within ICE.

"I believe the Committee on Homeland Security must hold a hearing on the financial crisis at ICE. The Committee must review the recent financial review that was conducted by the Grant Thornton accounting firm and whether ICE has the resources it needs to carry out its homeland security mission," said Mr. Thompson.

The Committee on Homeland Security has not yet received a copy of the financial review conducted by Grant Thornton.

#-#